



State Senator

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# VALDE GARCIA

## Serving the 22<sup>nd</sup> District

Shiawassee-Livingston-southern Ingham counties

### Home Heating

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#### Resources on the Web

#### For tips on saving money and energy at home

access the

Energy Savers booklet at

[www.eere.energy.gov/consu  
mer/tips](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips)

Help with heating bills for senior citizens and low-income families is available. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) encourages these customers to take advantage of home heating help programs. A variety of programs are available to assist eligible customers. Customers who are unable to pay their heating bills should contact their utility company or energy supplier before receiving a shut-off notice. These eligible customers should also sign up for assistance programs.

**Winter Protection Plan** protects senior and low-income customers from shut-off from November through March. Contact your local utility company for more information.

**State Emergency Relief Program** helps low-income households meet an immediate need for with home heating, electricity or energy-related home repairs. Contact the Department of Human Services at 1-800-444-5364

**Home Heating Credit** helps eligible seniors and low-income residents pay winter heating bills with a tax credit. The program runs from January to September. To order a form call 1-800-827-4000, then select option 4 and enter code number 331. Paper copies will also be available at most public libraries in 2006. Contact your local utility company for more information.

**Active Duty Shut-off Protection** protects the family of military personnel called to full-time or active duty by the President or Governor from utility shut-off. Contact your local utility company for more information.

**Medical Emergency Protection** protects customers with a qualifying, temporary medical emergency from energy shut-off for up to 21 days. It requires written documentation from a doctor. Contact your local utility company for more information.

**The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW)** provides assistance to low-income households and utility customers unable to pay due to an emergency. Call 1-800-866-THAW(8429)

Learn the best ways  
to save energy at  
your home.

Conduct a do-it yourself  
energy audit at  
[www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)

How does your  
home measure up?

Find out if  
your energy use is  
above average

Take the Home Energy  
Analysis at  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

For help  
in resolving  
a utility billing  
or  
service issue  
or to file a  
consumer  
complaint,  
call

1-800-292-9555

or go to  
[www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc)



# Home Heating Tips

## Tips to keep you warm this winter

- ✓ **Dial down.** Each degree below 72 F reduces heating use by 3 percent.
- ✓ **Caulk, seal or weather-strip leaks and cracks around windows and doors.** Reducing air leaks can save 10 percent on home energy bills
- ✓ **Clean or replace furnace filters once a month.**
- ✓ **Clean warm AND cold air registers** and make sure they're not blocked by furniture or curtains.
- ✓ **Check heating ducts for air leaks.**
- ✓ **Close vents and doors in unused rooms.**
- ✓ **Lower the temperature on the water heater to 120 F.** Water heating consumes 14-16 percent of a home energy bill
- ✓ Temporarily **fasten clear plastic sheeting over windows** to stop drafts and help retain heat.
- ✓ **Install a programmable thermostat** to automatically turn down the heat at night and when no one is home.
- ✓ **Add new insulation** to attic or walls. Proper insulation can save 20 percent on home heating bills.
- ✓ **Install storm windows** over single pane windows to reduce winter heat loss by 25 percent or more.
- ✓ **When replacing appliances or the heating system, consider both the purchase price and the operating cost.** The purchase price is a one-time cost, the operating cost shows up every month on the utility bill.

The new Federal Energy Policy Act provides tax credits  
for certain residential and commercial energy  
improvements installed in 2006 and 2007. Find out more  
at  
[www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice)